

January 17, 2022

To whom it may concern:

As a small business owner in Montgomery County, I wanted to share my thoughts on the proposal to enact a vaccine passport. Small business owners have had to bear the brunt of the negative effects of these Covid policies. In this case, I think there is enough evidence showing these measures are not as effective as we are being led to believe. Israel is a classic example with vaccine passports and they are on their 4th dose yet their numbers surged. There are many more examples across Europe.

Both DC and Montgomery County specifically have seen hospitalizations and deaths dramatically decrease the past 6-7 days and hopefully it will continue. The numbers started dropping prior to DC's vaccine passport took affect this past Saturday. Also, without making this a regional policy, a number of customers (how large or small is unknown) would conduct business in nearby counties without vaccine passports. Many feel this is government overreach. Small business owners have been doing their best during the past difficult 2 years to survive and I think it should be left up to us to decide what is best for our businesses especially since such measures show no significant benefit to the community.

Questions that come to mind are: Will we need added security for possible confrontations with those who do not wish to comply? What about those who claim medical exemptions...are we to confirm those claims before providing them service? Does this open us up to any legal jeopardy? Will local government reimburse businesses for every customer that walks out? It is an added level of burden we do not need.

Montgomery County is the most vaccinated county in the country I believe so why is there a need to burden small businesses even more by going after the minority of people who chose not to be vaccinated?? Is the end goal zero Covid which is unattainable or simply a means to get the few to comply? As a private business, we cannot discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or disability, and this policy has the distinct stench of discrimination.

I hope local leaders realize the way we have made it this far is by everyone working together. If this draconian policy is enacted, it will not only harm small businesses but will further divide our community.

Thank you,



Dominique Alexis
Managing Director
ENK Capital